

GEO 01

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____



1

2 Whatever happened to?

3

Requirements:

Computer (optional)

Pens and paper

Atlas showing forest or land clearance

Map of Australian States and Territories (2 Copies)

Group Activity 6: Where has land been cleared in Australia?

Land clearance is a major cause of the loss of species.

1. Find an atlas (e.g. Heinemann Atlas) or a textbook which shows a map of the loss of forest land between approximately 1800 to the present day. On a large map of Australia suitable for the wall display shade the forested areas lost in the period from 1800 onwards.
2. Study the statistics provided in the table below.

TABLE 6.1: ANNUAL AREA OF LAND CLEARED (HECTARES), 1995 - 2005

	1995 (ha)	2000 (ha)	2005 (ha)	Area of State and Territory (Km ²)
New South Wales	55 300	52 600	59 100	800 642
Victoria	9 800	7 700	27 400	227 416
Queensland	212 500	259 300	187 100	1 730 648
South Australia	5 300	5 700	9 300	983 482
Western Australia	25 100	22 000	38 200	2 529 875
Tasmania	4 500	3 200	7 900	68 401
Northern Territory	2 300	1 300	7 900	1 349 129
Australia	314 700	351 900	333 600	7 692 024

Source: Measures of Australia's Progress, (Cat. No. 1383.0.55.001): Summary Indicators, Table 7, 2009

3. Create a column graph to compare the area of land cleared in 1995, 2000 and 2005 for each of Australia's states and territories. Place the graph on the wall display.
4. Use a second large map of Australia showing the states and territories suitable for the wall display. Shade the states and territories according to the area of land cleared in 2005 using the key below.

Darkest shading	> 75 000 hectares
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Dark shading	51 000 – 75 000 hectares
Lighter shading	26 000 – 50 000 hectares
Lightest shading	0 – 25 000 hectares

5. The following information will help you. 100 hectares = 1 square kilometre. .

Use this information to calculate the area of land cleared in 2005 as a percentage of the area of the state and complete the table below.

TABLE 6.2: ANNUAL AREA OF LAND CLEARED (HECTARES), 2005

	2005 (ha)	2005 (Km²)	Area of State and Territory 2005 (Km²)	Area of Land Cleared as % of State or Territory
New South Wales	59 100		800 642	
Victoria	27 400		227 416	
Queensland	187 100		1 730 648	
South Australia	9 300		983 482	
Western Australia	38 200		2 529 875	
Tasmania	7 900		68 401	
Northern Territory	7 900		1 349 129	
Australia	333 600		7 692 024	

Source: Adapted from Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators, Table 7, 2009

6. Create a graph comparing the area of land cleared in 2005 in Table 6.2 as a percentage of the area of each state and territory.

7. Study the statements below and place them beneath either the appropriate map or graph.
 - Land clearance in 2005 as a proportion of the area of the state was greatest in the smallest states.
 - In 2005, the area of land cleared was greatest in NE Australia.
 - Land clearance has increased over the period 1995 -2005.

8. Use the data provided to make a clear statement about land clearance in your state or territory. Record this statement on the wall display.